

THE VICTORIA LOBBY—NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

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Our readers will remember that at the south end of the House of Lords is the Queen's hall or lobby, communicating, still further southward, with the Victoria gallery and the robing room. The above engraving is a representation of this apartment, which is one of the three finished. The decorations are very rich; carving, gilding, and colours uniting, as in the

house of lords and the peers' lobby, to produce a brilliant effect. The ceiling is panelled by the intersection of moulded beams; the ground is rich blue, on which are painted quatrefoils, containing the quarters of the royal arms surrounded by gilt crowns; the mouldings of the ceiling are painted subdued gold colour, partly gilt, and the foliage bosses are illuminated in colour. The upper part of the walls are covered temporarily with a maroon stuff powdered with roses and crowns, in panels, but is intended for painting.

The wall, to two thirds of its height, is panelled with wainscot, finishing with an enriched cornice and battlement; in the frieze are blazoned the shields of the succession of sovereigns from William the Conqueror to the Queen; the upper range of the panelling is intended for paintings of figures on gold ground, and is now hung with a paper in imitation of leather hangings.

The archway on the left opens into the Victoria gallery; that on the right is immediately behind the throne.

* See pp. 128, 127, 125, 126, 129, 130.